

FOUO 100-10003

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, DC 20520

October 3, 1980

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Dear Senator Javits:

Thank you for bringing to my attention the letter of requesting information regarding our assistance to refugees from Afghanistan.

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As you know, the Afghans now constitute one of the largest concentrations of refugees in the world. Most of them are destitute and in need of shelter, clothing, blankets, fuel and medical care. The Government and people of Pakistan have under difficult circumstances expended a hospitable and generous helping hand to the refugees. For our part, the Government of the United States is doing what it can to support the international relief program complementing the Pakistani efforts. Including the commitment of about \$33.6 million worth of basic food commodities, the United States has to date pledged a total of \$42.6 million to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Special Appeal for Afghan Relief, or nearly one-half of the entire amount which has been committed to this appeal by the international community. Additionally, we have undertaken to provide for more than \$1 million for assistance to voluntary agencies, such as the Red Cross, for relief efforts in behalf of the refugees. We intend to continue working with the international and voluntary agencies to assure adequate assistance for these victims of aggression.

With respect, particularly, to the processing of Afghan applicants for admission to the United States as refugees, we are seeking to eliminate undue delays. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has undertaken

The Honorable
Jacob K. Javits
United States Senate.

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to expedite the processing of applicants in Frankfurt, Germany where the greatest number of Afghans in Europe are located. We have also authorized consular officers at certain Foreign Service posts to begin processing applicants. One difficulty we encounter is the need to determine from among the vast numbers of genuine refugees, those who are eligible for admission to the United States under the Refugee Act of 1980 and then to make arrangements for orderly movement and settlement of those who qualify. The Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, working together with voluntary agencies and international organizations, intend to move as quickly as possible on these cases.

I hope that this information will be helpful.

Sincerely,

CW
J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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